

FEDERAL FACILITIES FORUM TELECONFERENCE

Thursday, May 11, 2000

NEXT FEDERAL FACILITIES FORUM TELECONFERENCE

The next Federal Facilities Forum teleconference is scheduled for June 8, 2000, from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. EST. The call-in number is 202-260-7280, access code 2552#. Region 9 will serve as technical lead for the teleconference.

UPDATE ON FALL 2000 MEETING

Craig Thomas (Region 5) reported that Technical Support Project (TSP) Forum Co-Chairs are considering various options for the location and dates of the next TSP meeting. The meeting is anticipated to include two training sessions provided by the National Ground Water Association (NGWA): (1) an intermediate/upper level course on geochemistry; and (2) a basic course on geostatistics for use in site management. Although the costs for state participation in the training sessions are expected to be covered by NGWA, the availability of funding for EPA participation in the sessions is unclear. Rich Steimle (TIO) is working with the Co-Chairs to identify funding sources for training of EPA staff.

The Federal Facilities Forum, which holds lead responsibility for organizing this meeting, is considering significant meeting participation from the U.S. Navy. Potential meeting locations include various Navy facilities in California or Charleston, SC. Various time frames between mid-October and mid-November 2000 are under consideration for the meeting dates.

FEDERAL FACILITIES FORUM PARTICIPATION AGREEMENTS

Thomas reiterated the need for the Federal Facilities Forum to complete its participation agreement process, which has been underway for the past six months. To date, agreements from representatives of Regions 2, 4, and 10 have not completed their agreements. Members from these regions were asked to return their signed agreements immediately to Dopkin at EMS, Inc. (fax number: 301-589-8487; or mailing address: 8601 Georgia Avenue, Suite 500, Silver Spring, MD 20910). It was noted that similar participation agreements for the TSP Engineering Forum and Ground Water Forum are firmly in place.

UXO HANDBOOK

Thomas reported that Jim Woolford (FFRRO) has recognized the need for significant revision of the UXO handbook, of which a draft was distributed recently within EPA. Accordingly, Woolford has asked that reviewers postpone their comments until the revised draft is issued later this year. Thomas will request FFRRO to ensure that state representatives on the Forum receive copies of the draft following EPA's internal review.

UPCOMING PERCHLORATE MEETING

Chris Villarreal (Region 6) informed members of an upcoming teleconference of the Interagency Perchlorate Steering Committee on Tuesday, May 16, 2000, at 1:00-3:00 EST. The teleconference is expected to provide a comprehensive overview of the Committee's progress in addressing perchlorate issues, including reports from the group's various subcommittees. Persons interested in participating in the teleconference may obtain additional information from the related message that was distributed by Villarreal, or by contacting Kevin Mayer (Region 9) at 415-744-2248.

FUTURE FORUM WORK PRODUCTS

Thomas asked members to consider potential work products that the Forum may sponsor in an effort to provide assistance to federal facility site managers. For example, the Forum may wish to sponsor development

of a database on specific aspects of formerly used defense sites (FUDS). Any suggestions on potential work products may be forwarded to one of the Forum Co-Chairs.

OPEN MIKE/REGIONAL ISSUES

Leo Henning (Kansas DHE) noted that EPA has proposed changing the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for arsenic from 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{R}$ to 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{R}$. This change may impact cleanup activities at sites with background levels of arsenic that are considerably higher than the proposed MCL. Scenarios such as this, however, could be addressed through the risk assessment process.

Members commented on the political ramifications of recent actions taken at the island of Vieques, where demonstrators were detained while protesting continued use of the U.S. Navy's test site on Vieques. These events have added to the prevailing perception that the Navy is unwilling to listen to public opinion. EPA currently is attempting to convince the Navy that a re-survey of the island is needed prior to transfer of the property to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The transferee is objecting to the survey, however, on the basis of claims that invasive surveys will disrupt the island's wildlife.

Thomas informed members that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has made a newly-developed FUDS inventory available on the Web at <http://denix.cecer.army.mil/>. To access the inventory from this Web site, users may select the following options, in order: public menu; library; FUDS; state inventory (updated July 1999).

ATTENDEES

Bill Roach, Region 2

Craig Thomas, Region 5

Chris Villarreal, Region 6

Jim Kiefer, Region 8

Bob Campbell, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

Leo Henning, Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Robert Weld, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

Juan Parra, FFRRO

Kevin Donovan, OSW

Randall Ross, ORD/Ada

Sandra Novotny, EMS, Inc.